

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CPR-01 /060 W  
----- 124167

R 151514Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5493  
INFO USLO PEKING  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14546

E. O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, CH, US  
SUBJECT: COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES IN LONDON ON  
DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG

REF: STATE 223L28

1. TO DATE, COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES IN LONDON ON DEATH OF CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO OPENING OF CONDOLENCE BOOK AT PRC EMBASSY. WE DID NOT RPT NOT RECEIVE COPY OF CIRCULAR DIPLOMATIC NOTE ANNOUNCING OPENING OF BOOK.
  2. ACCORDINGLY, EMBOFF RESPONSIBLE FOR COVERAGE OF CHINESE AFFAIRS (KAHANE) CALLED ACQUAINTANCE AT PRC EMBASSY TO INQUIRE IF HE MIGHT SIGN BOOK. CHINESE EMBOFF RETURNED CALL TO RESPOND, "YOU WOULD BE WELCOME," AND KAHANE WENT TO PRC EMBASSY AND SIGNED BOOK ON SEPTEMBER 14. CHINESE EMBOFF MET KAHANE AND THANKED HIM FOR COMING.
  3. PRC EMBASSY IS LITERALLY CRAMMED WITH HUNDREDS OF WHITE AND YELLOW FLORAL WREATHS, MOST OF WHICH ARE ADORNED WITH RIBBONS BEARING MESSAGES IN CHINESE. DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL VISITORS ARE ESCORTED TO THE HEAD OF THE LONG QUEUE OF LOCAL CHINESE PATIENTLY
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AWAITING THEIR TURN TO SIGN THE CONDOLENCE BOOK.

4. FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND SIGNED BOOK ON BEHALF OF HMG ON SEPTEMBER 13. (FCO HAS TOLD US THAT PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN WOULD HAVE SIGNED PERSONALLY HAD HE BEEN IN COUNTRY.)

5. ALTHOUGH LOCAL PRESS HAS REFERRED TO PLANS FOR "MEMORIAL SERVICES" IN HONOR OF MAO, NEITHER FCO PROTOCOL OFFICE NOR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES WE HAVE QUERIED ARE AWARE OF ANY SUCH SERVICE.

6. PRESS COVERAGE OF MAO'S DEATH HAS BEEN HEAVY, WITH LENGTHY BIOGRAPHIES FOLLOWED BY SPECULATION ON THE QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION. ON TELEVISION, BBC-2 AIRED "THE RISE OF MAO TSE-TUNG," A SPECIAL THREE-HOUR DOCUMENTARY BY FRENCH REPORTER ROGER PIC, WHICH BBC HAD PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED FROM FRENCH TV. WHILE UNDOUBTEDLY TIMELY, PIC'S PRESENTATION WAS AN UNABASHED PANEGYRIC TO THE GLORIES WROUGHT BY THE CHINESE CP WITH NO MENTION MADE OF ANY FAULTS; WHEN THE PROGRAM ENDED AT 12:15 A.M. (AND PRESUMABLY ALL BUT THE MOST MASOCHISTIC OF SINOLOGISTS HAD BEEN DRIVEN TO BED), THE BBC-2 ANNOUNCER CASUALLY MENTIONED, "THE VIEWS PRESENTED WERE THOSE OF THE REPORTER."

ARMSTRONG

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## Message Attributes

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